

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-6, 28 and 29 are currently under consideration. Claims 9-19, 30 and 31 have been withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider her rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Entry of Amendment

It is respectfully requested that the present Amendment should be entered into the official file in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance. Alternatively, if the Examiner does not agree that the application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Amendment should be entered for purposes of appeal. The claims have been amended in only one location to make a limitation stronger, which has already been considered, and to more clearly make the claim allowable over the references. Accordingly, Applicants submit that entry of the Amendment is appropriate.

Acknowledgment of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 12, 2003. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 should be sent to the undersigned at the earliest convenience of the Examiner.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Droz (U. S. Patent 6,176,010) in view of Inoue (U. S. Patent 4,960,983). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the previous Amendment, Applicants amended claim 1 to make it clear that the conductor has a plurality of adjacent conductive layers. The Examiner felt that this was not a patentable distinction and cites a dictionary definition saying that "adjacent" may or may not imply contact. The Examiner feels that this limitation does not define over Droz because the Droz reference includes conductive layers which are separated by insulators.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to state that these conductive layers are directly contacting rather than adjacent. Thus, Applicants submit that this limitation cannot be construed to be separated by an insulating layer and that the layers must be contacting without any intermediate layers. In view of this, Applicants submit that Droz does not show this feature.

The Examiner cited Inoue to show the use of sputtering of metal layers. However, this reference does not aid the Droz reference in overcoming the deficiency noted above, namely, the fact that the conductive layers are directly in contact. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not obvious over this combination of references.

Claims 2-6, 28 and 29 depend from allowable claim 1 and, as such, are also considered to be allowable. In addition, these claims recite other features which are also

considered to be allowable. For example, claim 3 recites that the coil is formed on the surface of the IC element. Claim 4 recites that the corner portions are chamfered. Claim 6 describes the dimensions of the lines and the number of turns. Claim 28 describes the relative resistances of the layers. Claim 29 describes that the coil is formed on a surface of the IC element. Applicants submit that these additional features are not obvious over these two references, and, accordingly, these claims are additionally allowable.

Furthermore, in regard to claim 29, it is noted that the Examiner states that the Droz reference fails to disclose that the entirety of the coil is formed on the surface of the IC element. However, the Examiner never follows this with a statement as to why this feature would be obvious. Accordingly, Applicants further submit that, in regard to claim 29, the Examiner has not met her burden of stating a proper rejection.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Droz in view of Inoue, as discussed above, and further in view of McDonough et al. (U. S. Published Application 2001/0044013). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that the McDonough et al. reference shows the use of through holes to make an electrical connection through a dielectric film. However, Applicants submit that this does not address other deficiencies that are found in the Droz and Inoue combination. In particular, claim 3 states that the coil is formed on the surface of the IC element. The Examiner states that Droz shows this in Figure 6. Applicants disagree. The coil is formed on a substrate or card, as seen in Figures 8 and 9. The coil is not formed on

the IC element 25, which is separately placed within a recess in the substrate or card. Thus, the coil is not formed on a surface of the IC element. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 3 is allowable over this three-way combination of references.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

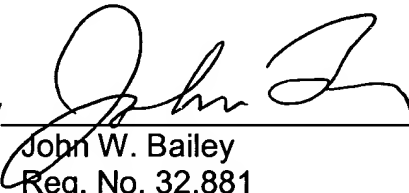
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$420.00 is attached hereto.

Application No. 09/914,077
Reply to Office Action dated March 30, 2004
Group Art Unit: 2822
Attorney Docket: 0152-0577P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
John W. Bailey
Reg. No. 32,881

 JWB/RFG/slb

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000